



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES

COMMISSION ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ANNUAL REPORT 2011
"Promoting Choice and Independence"



Letter of Transmittal to:

October, 2011

Honorable Isiah Leggett, Montgomery County Executive
Honorable Valerie Ervin, President, Montgomery County Council
Uma S. Ahluwalia, Director, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services

The Commission on People with Disabilities is pleased to present a summary of its activities for the past year. We continue to advise and consult with you on issues of concern to the safety and well-being of the estimated over 180,000 people with disabilities who live in the County. The Commission continues to work to improve the lives of people with disabilities who work, visit or live here. Under your leadership and with your support, the Commission is mandated to ensure that the County government complies with all Federal, State and local laws that guarantee the rights of people with disabilities, particularly the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Supreme Court's 1999 Olmstead Decision which upheld the "integration mandate" of the Americans with Disabilities Act requiring public agencies to provide services "in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of qualified individuals with disabilities."

This year the Commission was proud of the work done to promote the well being of people with disabilities. We value the relationship we have with the Office of Human Resources and will continue to meet with them on increasing employment of people with disabilities in its diversity outreach efforts. From efforts to comply with the Olmstead Decision, design of the new Silver Spring Library, housing accessibility, Ride On Bus, MetroAccess to accessibility on the fixed route transportation system, we have taken positions and given advice on how best to ensure greatest access.

We wish to recognize and give our personal thanks to all Commissioners, the many community members, and the agency staff who participate in our meetings for their commitment and dedication in promoting the civil rights and independence of people with disabilities. We would like to acknowledge DHHS Director Uma Ahluwalia for continuing to meet with the Boards, Commissions, and Committees to keep us informed of important health and human services issues; Jay Kenney, Ph.D., Chief, Aging & Disability Services, Betsy Luecking, Disability Policy Specialist, and Carly Clem, OSC, for their outstanding support in providing the Commission with the resources needed to carry out our mission. This report is the result of our combined efforts.

It has been a pleasure to work with you and members of the Commission during our term of service. We are confident that you will continue to support the Commission's efforts to enhance the lives of people with disabilities. Our meetings are open to the public, and we invite you to join us for any meeting.

Sincerely,

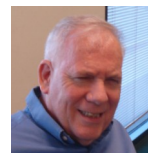


Patricia A. Gallalee

Patricia Gallalee
Chair

Charlie Crawford

Charlie Crawford
Vice Chair



MEMBERSHIP LIST

2010 - 2011

VOTING MEMBERS

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Cindy Buddington | Paul Meyer |
| Charles Crawford | John Miers |
| Harry Eisenberg | Seth Morgan |
| Patricia Gallalee | Marcie Povitsky |
| Megan Larson | A. Isabel Torres-Davis, Esq. |
| Tim Markwood | Jennifer Wolfsheimer |

PARENT REPRESENTATIVES

Susan Hartung
Irving Shapiro
Jackie Simon

PRIVATE AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Kimberley Alfonso, *Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind*
Edmund Kenny, *Handicap International*
Sheila Langston, *U.S. Coast Guard Exceptional Family Mbr. Program*
Mark Maxin, *Special Olympics*
Catherine Mello, *The Rock Creek Foundation*
Marie (Lu) Merrick, *Post High School at Ivymount School*
Cindy Ostrowski, *St. Luke's House, Inc.*
Daphne Pallozzi, *Ardmore Enterprises*
Stephen Riley, *Potomac Community Resources*

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

PUBLIC AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Joy Barrow, *Division of Transit Services, Department of Transportation*
Francie Gilman, *Disability Resource Center, Department of Public Libraries*
Nancy Greene, *ADA Compliance Officer, Department of Health and Human Services*
Richard Jackson, *Division of Facilities Management, Department of General Services*
Betsy Jett, *Human Relations Commission, Office of Human Rights*
Kathy Kolan, *Transition Services, Montgomery County Public Schools*
Christopher Moy, *ADA Compliance, Montgomery College*
Susan Smith, *Housing Opportunities Commission*
Darlene Taper, *School Health Services, Department of Health and Human Services*
Angela Washington, Esq., *Equal Employment & Diversity, Office of Human Resources*

STAFF

Betsy Luecking, *Disability Policy Specialist*
Carly Clem, *Office Services Coordinator*
John (Jay) Kenney, Ph.D., *Chief, Aging and Disability Services*

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COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS FOR 2010 - 2011

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| October, 2010: | "Think Beyond the Label" - Hiring People With Disabilities Employment Campaign – Cathy Raggio, Secretary, Maryland Department of Disabilities |
| November, 2010: | Montgomery County: Budget Process & Fiscal Outlook Highlights of the Office of Management and Budget – Dr. Jay Kenney, Chief, Aging and Disability Services |
| February, 2011: | Update on Programs Offered by Independence Now – Sarah Basehart Sorenson, Executive Director, Independence Now |
| April, 2011: | March Is Brain Injury Awareness Month Proclamation – Dr. Jay Kenney, Chief, Aging and Disability Services; Ray Salzberg, President, Rock Creek Foundation FY12 Operating Budget Highlights and Forecast – Dr. Jay Kenney, Chief, Aging and Disability Services |
| May, 2011: | Senior Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) and Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP): What People With Disabilities Need To Know Regarding Timeliness and Income Support Programs – Leta Blank, Program Director, University of Maryland Extension, Montgomery County, MD |
| June, 2011: | Transit Updates and Accessibility – Carolyn Biggins, Chief, and Steve Wells, Operations Chief, Division of Transit Services, Montgomery County Department of Transportation |
| September, 2011 | Design Feedback from the Commission on the Proposed Disability Resource Center at the New Silver Spring Public Library – Rita Gale and Susanne Churchill, Montgomery County Public Libraries Equal Rights Center: Overview of Services – Kat Taylor, Disability Rights Program Manager, Ian Watlington, Disability Rights Coordinator, and Hilary Tone, Communications Associate, Equal Rights Center |
| October, 2011 | Project Civic Access and Montgomery County Government – Nancy Greene, ADA Compliance Manager, Department of General Services, Montgomery County Government |

BUILD OR RENOVATE YOUR HOME FOR ALL AGES AND STAGES OF LIFE DESIGN FOR LIFE MONTGOMERY



Universal and Green Model Home
In Clarksburg, MD
Photo Courtesy of Winchester



The Brownstones at Park Potomac
Garage with Lift to Elevator
to All Floors
Photo Courtesy of [EYA](#)



Renovation - Single Family Home
in Takoma Park
Photo Courtesy of Ken Wyner
(photographer) and [Universal Design](#)

Design for Life Montgomery (DFLM) is the first voluntary certification program in Maryland for Visit-Ability and Live-Ability in single family attached and detached homes. The DFLM workgroup continues to meet with the Maryland- National Capital Building Industry Association (MNCBIA) to promote and market the program. This program was implemented in 2003 by the Executive Branch with the County Office of Permitting Services being designated to certify homes. This program is a collaboration between the Commission on People with Disabilities and the M-NCBIA. Whether you are a first time homebuyer, young family, career professional, active adult or person living with a temporary or permanent disability, your home will be enhanced by these additional design features which will meet your needs throughout your life.

The guidelines for this voluntary program apply to new construction and renovation of existing homes:

I. Level I Visit-Able

- No step entry into the first floor of house
- 32 inch wide doorways
- Access to bathrooms on first floor

II. Level II Live-Able

- Access to master bedroom
- Access to full bath
- Access to kitchen

What is going on elsewhere in the country in the area of Visit-able/Livable Housing?

1. Many communities have required that all publicly funded housing be built to specifications of Visitable/Liveable (reported by AARP).
2. DC has introduced a bill that would require Visitable and Liveable features in all publicly funded housing.
3. Maryland has passed legislation that requires builders of 11 units or more to offer Visitable/Liveable features as options.
4. Virginia has proposed an incentive to builders and homeowners that include or add Visitable or Livable features to their homes.
5. Some communities require all new housing be Visitable and Livable, example Pima Arizona.
6. Baltimore City requires Visitable/Liveable features in all housing that is publicly funded.
7. HUD provides developer points for projects that include Visitable and Liveable features.

For more information go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov/designforlifemontgomery.

DISABILITY PARKING WORKGROUP ESTABLISHED BY COUNTY EXECUTIVE

The Commission wrote a letter to the County Executive asking him to explore possible initiatives with the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) for the enforcement of laws pertaining to the accessibility of parking for people with disabilities. He concurred that the abuse of disabled parking is a serious problem which needs to be addressed.

As a result of the Commission's communications, he convened a task force to explore potential measures to address the issue. That group consists of: Capt. Tom Didone, Director of the MCPD Traffic Division; Rick Siebert, Chief of the Management Services Section in the Division of Parking Management for the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT); Betsy Luecking, Staff Director for the Commission on People with Disabilities and the Commission on Veterans Affairs; and Michael Subin, Executive Director of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission and Special Projects Officer. The group has also been joined by Dr. Seth Morgan, M.D., a commissioner on the Commission on People with Disabilities. They met over the summer and are putting together a proposed initiative for a public education campaign and greater enforcement of the laws.

The task force identified two areas of primary concern: illegal parking spaces reserved for the disabled and the misuse of placards provided to those with disabilities for their use in multiple vehicles. While the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) issues the placards, Montgomery County is responsible for the enforcement of the laws and statutes regarding handicapped parking. MCPD, the Department of Fire and Rescue Services (DFRS) and MCDOT's Parking Enforcement personnel have jurisdiction to conduct enforcement of the Handicapped Parking spaces. Capt. Didone provided the group with a review of the 2010 data. What the data revealed was that there had been 618 parking violations in 2010. Of those, MCPD issues 315 citations, MCDOT issued 221 citations and DFRS, along with municipal law enforcement officers, issued 82 citations. Additionally, 583 calls were received regarding parking violations. Only 451 of those calls were verified. As a result, 89 citations were issued and 134 calls were found to be unwarranted or not verified. A majority of those calls were dispatched to police officers in the field who were either dispatched to other calls prior to arriving on the scene or where, for several reasons, a citation was not issued.

Traditionally, MCPD enforces County and State parking regulations on private property available for public parking, which includes malls and shopping centers where violations appear to be quite common. DOT parking enforcement officers and County police officers have concurrent jurisdiction over public parking facilities in the County's Parking Lot Districts (PLD), and have worked will to enforce laws and regulations related to disability parking.

The County will be establishing a campaign called "Respect the Space" to include, but not limited to, the following measures: a public awareness campaign regarding the critical need to obey disabled parking laws; education merchants as to the seriousness of the problem and the need to clearly mark disability spaces as well as enforce their proper use; the need to continue the close coordination and cross-support between MCPD and MCDOT parking enforcement officers; and to meet with the Chief Administrative Judge of the District Court regarding enforcement issues.

ACCESSIBLE PARKING



Did You Know...?

- ✓ Disability Tags or Placards are required to be displayed properly. Placards must be hung on the inside rearview mirror. If the vehicle does not have an inside mirror, or the inside mirror is not visible from the rear, you may display the placard on top of the dashboard on the driver's side. Please make sure the placard side displayed shows the expiration date of the disability placard. You must remove hanging placards from rearview mirror while your vehicle is in motion.
- ✓ Only the individual whose name is on the registration may park in the accessible space.
- ✓ You must always have your copy of the white MVA Disability Parking Certification card in your possession whenever you use the placard or plates. This certification must be presented to law enforcement upon request.
- ✓ The fine for illegally parking in an accessible space is up to \$250.00.
- ✓ The striped area adjacent to and between accessible spaces is there so that wheelchair lifts may load or unload passengers. When you park in a striped area "just for a minute" a lift cannot be used.

Please respect accessible parking laws and regulations.

INSTALLATION OF ACCESSIBLE PARKING SPACES

Both the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) and the Maryland Accessibility Code cover:

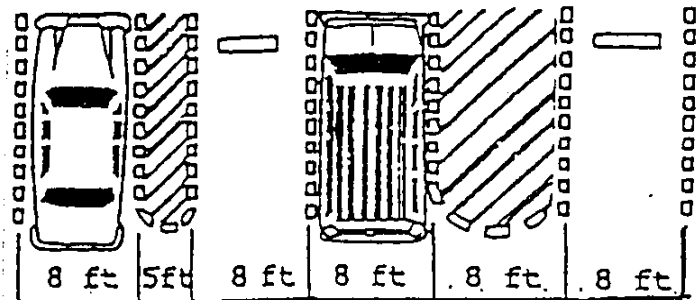
Minimum Number of Accessible Parking Spaces

COMAR 05.02.02

| Total Number of Parking Spaces Provided (per lot) | Total Minimum Number of Accessible Parking Spaces (60" & 96" aisles) | Van Accessible Parking spaces with min. 96" wide access aisle | Accessible Parking Spaces with min. 60" wide access aisle |
|---|--|--|---|
| | Column A | | |
| 1 to 25 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 26 to 50 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 51 to 75 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| 76 to 100 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| 101 to 150 | 5 | 2 | 3 |
| 151 to 200 | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| 201 to 300 | 7 | 2 | 5 |
| 301 to 400 | 8 | 2 | 6 |
| 401 to 500 | 9 | 3 | 6 |
| 501 to 1,000 | 2% of total parking provided in each lot | 1/4 of Column A* | 3/4 of Column A** |
| 1,001 and over | 20 plus 1 for each over 1,000 | 1/4 of Column A* | 3/4 of Column A** |
| *one out of every 4 accessible space | | **3 out of every 4 accessible parking spaces | |

Access Aisles

- Access Aisles adjacent to accessible parking spaces must be 60 inches wide – 96 inches wide for van space Maryland Code requires "No parking in Access Aisle".
- Accessible spaces must be located on the shortest accessible route to an accessible entrance.



- Maryland law requires signs mounted on a pole (7 ft) or building wall (6–10ft.)
- Accessible signage **MUST NOT** be covered up by vehicles or snow. Don't paint the symbol on the ground.

OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Office of Human Resources has been working closely with the Commission on People with Disabilities with the goal of increasing employment opportunities for people with disabilities. The County Government is an equal opportunity employer, committed to workforce diversity.

1. Accordingly, as it relates to employment opportunities, the County will provide reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities, in accordance with the law. Applicants requiring a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process should contact the Office of Human Resources and request a Human Resources Specialist at 240-777-0311 Voice or 240-777-5126 TTY for assistance and guidance. You may also request a reasonable accommodation for the selection process via email to Special.Accommodations@montgomerycountymd.gov. Individual determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made in accordance with all applicable laws.
2. Montgomery County Government provides priority consideration for initial appointment to a County Merit System position for veterans with a disability, veterans without a disability and for persons with a disability. For more information and to claim a hiring preference, please refer to the Careers webpage on [Hiring Preference](#).
3. The Customized Employment Public Intern Project was created based on the County's knowledge that people with significant disabilities often have difficulty accessing County government positions. As an employer, Montgomery County recognizes that there are many job candidates with significant disabilities who have much to offer but have difficulty competing for traditional jobs within the government. To go above and beyond what other County and State agencies have done, Montgomery County has established an initiative to create flexible work opportunities for individuals to fulfill the work requirements of County departments. All County departments will have the opportunity to work with a customized employment career specialist to identify and create part-time position descriptions based on the department's need. Individuals with significant disabilities will be matched to work tasks based on their interests, skills and competencies. The hope is that the public interns will gain job experience and training to be able to compete for merit positions within the County, as well as at other places of employment. For more information, please contact Marie Parker at mparker@montgomeryworks.com or 240-283-1574.
4. The Montgomery County QUEST Intern Partnership was launched in October 2009 with the Maryland Department of Education Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS). The Quest Intern partnership is designed to provide opportunities for individuals to serve as volunteer interns in County Departments and help them obtain job skills by working on a special project(s). The goal for this initiative was to achieve a minimum of ten (10) QUEST Internship placements to be enrolled at any given time. Participating departments identify internship projects suitable for QUEST Intern placements and submit the project(s) for consideration by the DORS QUEST Intern Coordinator. DORS representatives work with county department staff to recruit, identify, and recommend qualified individuals for the approved department projects. The DORS Coordinator recommends qualified intern candidates for consideration and selection by department staff. Department staff interview internship candidates and select individuals to work in the department for a three month or six-month period. The QUEST internship placements do not impact departmental fiscal requirements, since DORS handles all the pre-intern placement arrangements and provides the intern stipends. DORS provides QUEST Interns with a stipend for the duration of their service plus help interns gain job experience needed to help them achieve their goal of obtaining gainful employment after completing the intern placement with Montgomery County.

CUSTOMIZED EMPLOYMENT INTERNS TO APPLY FOR “EMPLOYEES ONLY” VACANCIES

Office of Human Resources

MEMORANDUM

July 21, 2011

TO: Executive Branch Department and Agency Directors

FROM: Joseph Adler, Director
Office of Human Resources

SUBJECT: Amendments to the Montgomery County Personnel Regulations

[Excerpt]

Executive Regulation 2-11, MCPR Amendment to Allow Customized Employment Public Interns to Apply for “Employees Only” Vacancies

This regulation amends Section 6-2 of the Personnel Regulations to allow active and in certain circumstances former customized employment public interns to apply for vacancy announcements that are limited to County employees only. Customized employment public interns are individuals with significant disabilities hired non-competitively on a short-term temporary basis to perform tasks for departments throughout the County that match the individual’s interest, skills, and competencies with the department’s needs.

Where To Find Vacancies / How To Apply:

- All jobs are posted on the County website: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/careers.
- Public Interns do not have Single Sign-On access, so enter as an “External Applicant” by clicking iRecruitment Visitor Homepage.
- Click “Register Today” (if you have not already registered) and fill out the registration information.
- Once in the system, click the “Search Jobs” tab.
- In the “Job Category” section, click “Montgomery County Government Employees Only” to narrow your search to employee only announcements.
- Click “GO”.

When applying for Employee Only jobs, there will be an assessment attached (supplemental questions in the system) for the applicant to answer. The applicant must answer YES to the question regarding Customized Employment Public Intern Participation. This will give the application credit for participation. In addition, the applicant should note on their resume that he/she was a participation of the public intern project.

TRANSPORTATION AND RIDE ON

The Access for All (AFA) Advisory Commission of the Council of Governments advises the Transportation Planning Board on transportation issues, program, policies and services that are important to low-income communities, minority communities and people with disabilities. Commissioners Paul Meyer and Charlie Crawford have taken an active role in attending the Council of Government's Access for All meetings. Of concern is that MetroAccess WMATA has stopped allowing MetroAccess applicants to mail the applications in which starts the 21 daytime for a decision on eligibility. Instead people must call in and schedule an appointment with a waiting time of up to two months to get an appointment to bring in the application. There is serious concern coming from Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital that persons newly injured or disabled now have this long wait time thus negatively impacting their discharge and return to community living. The Commission will be asking the County to intervene on behalf of those who need this service to request that it be speeded up. This past year the Commission also worked with the County's transit division on making the fixed route more accessible.

Passenger Bill of Rights and Responsibilities — Montgomery County Transit

We, in Montgomery County Transit, are dedicated to excellence in mobility options.

As our riders, you have the right to:

- A safe and reliable bus ride.
- Professional and courteous service.
- A clean and comfortable bus.
- Know the rules of riding the bus and have the rules posted in the vehicle.
- Report disputes over fares and transfers.
- Know the bus number to report incidents or resolve problems.
- Rider-to-rider courtesy as encouraged by the bus operator.
- Access to and receive a timely response from all levels of the organization.
- Tell us about the quality of our service and how we can make your transit system better.
- Accurate information on routes, schedules, fares, and other mobility options. This includes onboard announcements of stops.

For your comfort and safety:

- Have your fare ready when boarding the bus and understand how to insert the fare correctly.
- Move to the rear of the bus so others may board quickly.
- Allow seniors and disabled persons to occupy priority seating.
- Please do not occupy more than one seat when others need seating.
- Close your strollers and have children seated for their own safety.
- Refrain from smoking, eating, drinking or spitting.
- Use headphones when playing audio devices at low volume.
- Stay behind the safety line on the bus when you are standing.
- Allow the operator to drive the bus safely by not speaking with the operator while the bus is moving.
- As a courtesy, exit from the rear and hold the rear door open for the person behind you when exiting.

2011 - 2012 WORKPLAN

Over-arching goal: Note that any goal that involves legislation will require a motion and vote by entire Commission. Any budget or support services will be included under every goal.

To address the needs of County residents with disabilities by partnering with the disability community and County agencies responsible for designated programs to identify and prioritized needs, develop effective budget advocacy, formulate strategic means of addressing those needs, monitor the progress of those prioritized strategies, in areas such as, but not limited to; 1) ADA Compliance, 2) Housing, 3) Employment, and 4) Transportation.

- 1. ADA Compliance Workgroup** - Work with the ADA Compliance Manager to develop strategies to meet the County's requirements in the terms and conditions for the Settlement Agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) as part of DOJ's Project Civic Access review. Under the terms of the new DOJ agreement, the County has agreed to the following:
 - Providing additional training to all staff on the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA);
 - Assessing over 240 additional County facilities for ADA compliance (in addition to the 100 already assessed by DOJ) and developing a transition plan to ensure that any ADA improvements are made;
 - Improving the accessibility of our web site through a redesign of the site, the use of a compliance tool, and additional staff training;
 - Assessing all County policies, programs and services to ensure accessibility; and
 - Working collaboratively with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and Montgomery County Public Schools to ensure the accessibility of facilities used by the public through the Community Use of Public Facilities.
- 2. Housing** - Promote policies and programs that provide access to housing for people with disabilities. Develop, support and promote full inclusion of people with disabilities as they seek access to all housing opportunities in Montgomery County. This will include, but not be limited to:
 - Ensure that housing organizations provide community education and referral for people with disabilities who are in danger of foreclosure or other crisis situations.
 - Advocate for incentives to builders and homeowners to increase the stock of homes that meet the criteria of Design for Life (DFL) Montgomery.
 - Advocate for housing renovation and rehabilitation funds.
 - Partner with the Montgomery County Housing Opportunities Commission and Inter-Agency Fair Housing workgroup to research all issues related to fair housing and homelessness for people with disabilities.
- 3. Employment** - Increase employment of people with disabilities by promoting opportunities for the employment, training, placement, retention and advancement of individuals with a broad range of disabilities within the County Government and its contractors. This will include, but not be limited to:
 - Partner with the Office of Human Resources to implement the legislation to increase the representation of people with disabilities at all levels of government through the hiring preference and other programs.
 - Monitor and be an advocate for customized internship employment opportunities and Quest Internship program.
 - Provide funding support for workforce development training programs/initiatives focused on people with disabilities.
 - Partner with employers, community organizations, etc to communicate, advocate, (maybe even provide workshops focused on dispelling myths, etc.) and support the state on "Think Beyond the Label", etc. We need to develop a strong voice and platform to support this initiative.
 - Better understand the statistics on the numbers of people in Montgomery with Disabilities and hiring rates.
- 4. Transportation** - Promote all publicly funded transportation to be safe, accessible, affordable and reliable for persons with disabilities. This will include, but not be limited to:
 - Work with all relevant parties to insure that MetroAccess Paratransit service is available, reliable, on-time, affordable, and transparent in its policies and communications to users, and
 - Encourage the development of a comprehensive and uniform standard of affording disability parking and insuring that those who take advantage of such affordance are in fact qualified to do so,
 - Partner with the County transportation officials and disabled users of public transportation to insure compliance with all applicable standards of operations and performance under the Americans with disabilities Act,
 - Advocate for a pedestrian infrastructure that is accessible, safe, and maintained.

FY12 OPERATING BUDGET TESTIMONY

**Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities
FY12 Operating Budget Forum – Before the Montgomery County Council
November 1, 2010
Patricia Gallalee, Chair | Charlie Crawford, Vice- Chair**

Good Evening, my name is Patricia Gallalee and I am speaking on behalf of the Commission on People with Disabilities. We recognize the County's fiscal crisis and know that tough decisions are going to be made. At minimum, we hope that you will be able to sustain programs so that people do not lose needed services. This may be the right time to rethink how long term care services are provided, and to who. We recommend an intake questionnaire that asks the right questions so that if people are eligible for federal or state funding they are referred to those programs, and County dollars only used until they obtain those benefits.

Medicaid Waivers are a main source of funding for people with significant disabilities. The problem is that those who do not qualify for Medicaid but who are the working poor are mostly left out of needed services. Prevention and case management for those not in crisis or needed protective services has been vanishing forcing people to go into crisis to receive services. We ask that the department develop a plan to address the needs of those who may just need some assistance before they are forced into a crisis.

We recommend the following:

- Stop the cuts to the DD Supplement/Match and restore what was lost
- Continue funding the Group Home Rehab program in DHCA
- Restore respite care hours to 164
- Develop classification for interns currently in the Customized Employment Program so that they can apply for merit positions like aides for the library
- Increase AP1-10 supported employment contracts that go to non-profits who employ people with disabilities to do work for the county
- Restoration of \$100,000 in the In-Home Aide Care program
- Continue Call 'N Ride program at the current funding level

While we applaud the enhanced funding for Ride On, it is essential that Metro Access be fully maintained and improved. The State has the contract for Metro Access but we believe the County must take some responsibility to ensure that safe and satisfactory service be provided to those residents of Montgomery County who are so dependent on this service. We have supported the increased cost of Metro Access, but we must have improved service in return. There is a strong connection between the availability of a reliable transportation system to the ability of persons with disabilities being able to get to and from work so their dependency on other financial assistance is diminished.

As noted above, the full provision of adequate services for persons with disabilities must be a priority of Montgomery County in FY 2012. While funds may be short, the demand is growing, and will continue to grow. Montgomery County must do better for its citizens with disabilities.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak with you.

“A Community's Budgetary Choices and Policies Reflect its Values”

TOP TWO POLICY PRIORITIES FOR FY12

Montgomery County Commission On People with Disabilities

Meeting with County Executive Isiah Leggett

February 10, 2011

Patricia A. Gallalee, Chair

Charlie Crawford, Vice Chair

1. Issue of Concern: Budget Cuts to Programs Serving People with Disabilities and the negative impact on our community.

Proposed solutions:

- We recommend that providers of services for people with developmental disabilities be fully funded; however, if cuts are imminent, limit cuts not to exceed 5% of current funding. In contrast to the County match to State funds being 10.16% in 2004, with increasing State dollars and an only 7.93% County match in FY11 the providers are receiving 20% or \$2M less than they would have at the 2004 County match level. The match helps to boost staff salaries TO \$8.97 an hour. It is a hard job, and it is difficult to attract and retain employees. Since you are looking for successful programs to continue, 93 percent of people receiving services are satisfied with their services and 95 percent were able to remain at the same level or higher of independence. Also, private providers in the County are bringing in \$97.8 Million in Revenue and serve 2,539 clients.
- Wherever possible, when County dollars are used, do not base eligibility on age or disability but instead base it on income and have it means tested, perhaps by something such as a Medicaid card. Age or disability does not necessarily mean low income.
- Strictly enforce existing County residency requirements for all programs that use county dollars such as the HHS security deposits for housing rental. County funded security deposits were intended to be used for those people with housing vouchers moving within the County. But, people are taking their vouchers and moving here from other states/counties and receiving county security deposits averaging \$1,800; others requesting much more than this average.
- We recommend there be no cuts to early intervention programs that support infants and toddlers with developmental delays.
- Eliminate duplication of state and county licensing such as the duplication in group home licensing.
- Maintain funding for public libraries. Libraries are a vital resource to people with disabilities, particularly in terms of employment readiness and employment opportunities.

2. Issue of Concern: People with disabilities living in shelters.

Proposed solutions:

- We ask the County to reexamine its housing policies in regards to program eligibility, criteria and placement priorities.
- There is not enough funding for those in crisis needing housing. There needs to be a collaborative effort between the emergency housing and Developmental Disabilities Administration. Also the County needs to identify staff that will work with people on the Waiting List/registry when they go into crisis

WHO HAS A DISABILITY IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD? AN OVERVIEW

The U.S. Census Bureau Census, 2010, estimates that there are approximately 69,016 persons living in Montgomery County with a disability. According to a 2010 American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, 12% of Americans self-reported as having a disability. These figures excluded individuals who reside in nursing homes or other institutions. The Census Bureau defines disability as a long-lasting physical, mental, or emotional condition. This condition can make it difficult for a person to do activities such as walking, climbing stairs, dressing, bathing, learning, or remembering. This condition can also impede a person from being able to go outside the home alone or to work at a job or business.

Social Security Recipients (SSI)

As of December, 2010, there are **12,831** people receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) in Montgomery County. Of those individuals, **7,281** have a disability.

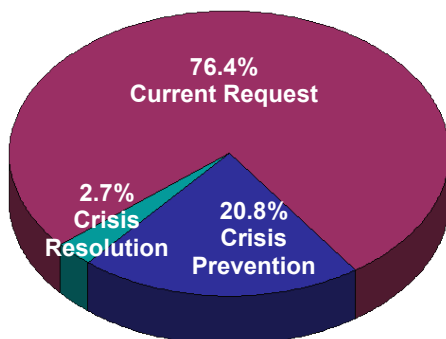
| | |
|---|--------------------|
| People under 18 | 1,167 |
| People 18 - 64 | 4,927 |
| People 65 or older | 6,737 |
| Total | 12,831 |
| Social Security Insurance recipients also receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) | 3,243 |
| Total Amount of Payments | \$6,514,000 |

Source: Social Security Administration, 2010

Maryland Developmental Disabilities Waiting List

Thousands of children and adults with developmental disabilities, such as Down Syndrome, cerebral palsy and autism are waiting for community services from the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA). As of July, 2011, there are **6,538** individuals in Maryland waiting for one of three basic services (residential, day and support services). Of those individuals, **729 (or 13.5%) live in Montgomery County**. The DDA funds services for people based on their priority category which should reflect the person's current needs.

- First served are people in the Crisis Resolution category. **(20 in Montgomery County)**
- Second are people in the Crisis Prevention category. **(152 in Montgomery County)**
- Third are people in the Current Request category. **(557 in Montgomery County)**



2010 Disability Characteristics - Montgomery County

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Total Population With A Disability | 69,016 |
| Subject | Total |
| Population under 5 years | 63,918 |
| With a disability | 283 |
| With a hearing difficulty | 133 |
| With a vision difficulty | 203 |
| Population 5 to 17 years | 169,757 |
| With a disability | 5,671 |
| With a hearing difficulty | 874 |
| With a vision difficulty | 539 |
| With a cognitive difficulty | 3,806 |
| With an ambulatory difficulty | 491 |
| With a self-care difficulty | 1,414 |
| Population 18 to 64 years | 617,069 |
| With a disability | 28,810 |
| With a hearing difficulty | 5,966 |
| With a vision difficulty | 3,637 |
| With a cognitive difficulty | 11,347 |
| With an ambulatory difficulty | 11,263 |
| With a self-care difficulty | 3,999 |
| With an independent living difficulty | 9,566 |
| Population 65 years and over | 117,560 |
| With a disability | 34,252 |
| With a hearing difficulty | 12,752 |
| With a vision difficulty | 6,592 |
| With a cognitive difficulty | 8,153 |
| With an ambulatory difficulty | 21,914 |
| With a self-care difficulty | 8,672 |
| With an independent living difficulty | 16,841 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SPECIAL EDUCATION

Number of Montgomery County Public School Students with Disabilities Ages 3 - 21 Receiving Special Education Services

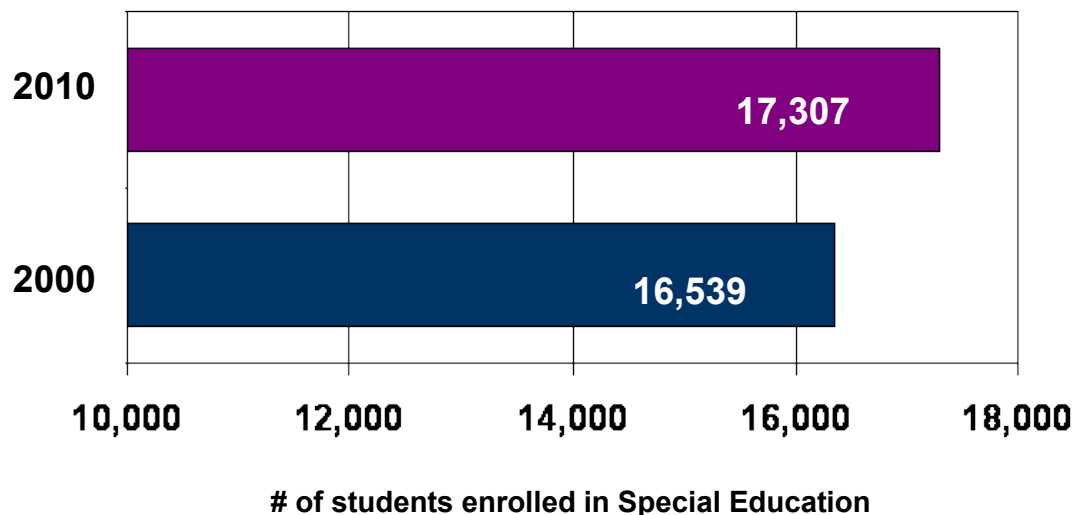
As of September 30th, 2010, there were **17,307** students with disabilities enrolled in Special Education. This population makes up **12.0%** of the County's total school enrollment of 144,023 students.

| Disability Type | # of Students 2009 | # of Students 2010 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Autism | 1,501 | 1,642 |
| Deaf | 101 | 103 |
| Deaf-Blind | 1 | 2 |
| Developmental Delay (Ages 3 - 9) | 1,415 | 1,726 |
| Developmental Delay (Extended IFSP) | N/A | 143 |
| Emotional Disability | 684 | 663 |
| Hearing Impairment | 163 | 150 |
| Intellectual Disability | 652 | 655 |
| Multiple Disabilities | 256 | 257 |
| Orthopedic Impairment | 59 | 57 |
| Other Health Impairment | 2,755 | 2,831 |
| Specific Learning Disability | 5,608 | 5,649 |
| Speech and Language Impairment | 3,613 | 3,345 |
| Traumatic Brain Injury | 27 | 26 |
| Visual Impairment | 63 | 58 |
| Total | 16,485 | 17,307 |

Source: Maryland State Department of Education - Special Education/Early Intervention Services Census Data 10/2010

Montgomery County School Enrollment - Special Education Ages 3 to 21

Special Education enrollment has increased by **948** students over the last ten years.



Source: Maryland State Department of Education - Special Education/Early Intervention Services Census Data 10/2010

PUBLICATIONS PROVIDED BY THE COMMISSION

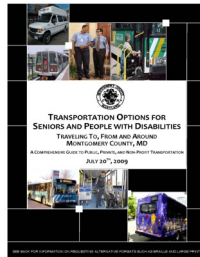
Publications Provided by the Commission on People with Disabilities



DISABILITY NETWORK DIRECTORY:

A directory of provider agencies, businesses and advocacy organizations that offer local, state and national resources for people with disabilities. The Disability Network Directory is available online at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dnd.

TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS FOR SENIORS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES: A comprehensive listing of public, private and non-profit transportation in the Washington Metropolitan Region, State of Maryland and beyond. This guide was compiled to assist County residents to better coordinate their transportation needs. Download a copy of the guide on our Disability Services website.



For more resources, visit the Disability Services Website:
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/disability

DON'T GET STUCK IN TRAFFIC, IF THERE IS AN ACCIDENT!!!

You are encouraged to sign up for emergency alerts from

Alert Montgomery.

Let Montgomery County contact you using the Roam Secure Alert Network during a major crisis or emergency. Alert Montgomery can deliver important emergency alerts, notifications and updates to you on all of your devices at once:

- e-mail account (work, home, other)
- cell phone
- text page
- Blackberry
- wireless PDA

<https://alert.montgomerycountymd.gov>



Montgomery County encourages all residents to put together a plan for emergencies. The County has emergency response plans in place for dealing with emergencies from snow storms to terrorist attacks.

However, each person is strongly encouraged to develop their own personal plan. Montgomery County has developed the Plan 9 Guide for residents. It is a simple guide to nine essential items to help residents shelter in-place during emergencies.

We also encourage people to request a File of Life that allows you to fill out your medical history and rescue personnel are trained to look for this File on your refrigerator. To request a File of Life, call the Health and Human Services Aging and Disability Resource Unit: 240-777-3000 (V), 240-777-2545 (TTY), or visit the websites:

www.makeaplan.org

www.montgomerycountymd.gov



Collect these **nine essential items** to help you shelter-in-place in the event of an emergency.



1. Water: One gallon per person per day for three days. Replace the water every 6 months.



2. Food: Non-perishables such as canned or packaged food. Enough to last 3 to 5 days per person.



3. Clothes: One change of clothes and footwear per person. Consider packing blankets, rain-gear, and outerwear in case of severe weather.



4. Medications: Three days worth of prescription medications. Be sure to mark the expiration dates and change as needed.



5. Flashlight: A bright flashlight and extra batteries. Do not use candles as they are fire hazards.



6. Can Opener: Manual can opener in case there's no electric power. Buying foods with pull-open cans is also helpful.



7. Radio: Battery-powered radio and extra batteries. Crank operated or solar powered radios are also helpful.



8. Hygiene Items: Basics like soap, toilet paper and a toothbrush. Moist toiles are useful.



9. First Aid: Basics like antiseptic, gloves, bandages, and non-prescription medicines. Many stores have pre-made kits.

ABOUT THE COMMISSION

HISTORY

The Commission on People with Disabilities was established by County legislation in 1978 to advise the County Executive and County Council on the coordination and development of the County's policies affecting residents with disabilities.

MISSION

The Commission provides advice, counsel, and recommendations to the Government of Montgomery County, Maryland in general, the County Executive, and the County Council in particular. Its responsibilities involve those matters influencing the provision of services, County policies and procedures, development and implementation of state and federal laws, and any other issues affecting the lives, rights, and welfare of the people it represents. The Commission operates in belief that people with disabilities have the right to the same opportunities in life as people without disabilities; and that this right can best be ensured by a commitment to enhancing the image, status, and quality of life of all children and adults with disabilities.

MEMBERSHIP

The Commission on People with Disabilities is composed of 25 voting members who serve in a volunteer capacity. Members are appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council.

The Commission includes:

- ▶ 13 people with disabilities,
- ▶ 3 parents of people with disabilities, and
- ▶ 9 representatives of public and private service providing agencies

The Commission also includes ex-officio members that are appointed to represent the Departments of Health and Human Services, Transportation, Recreation, Libraries, Office of Human Resources, and the Human Rights Commission. There are also members who represent Montgomery College, Montgomery County Public Schools, and the Housing Opportunities Commission.

MEETINGS

All Commission and Committee meetings are open to the public. The Commission welcomes visitors to join us as we serve the County and its residents. Meetings are subject to change without advance notice. Please call to confirm day and time of meetings and to request any special accommodations. As possible, we adjust meeting dates in order to accommodate days of major religious observances. You can view the Commission meeting minutes online at:

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cpwd

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2011 - 2012

Full Commission Meeting

2nd Wednesday of the month,
except for July and August

101 Monroe Street, Lobby Auditorium
Rockville, MD 20850
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Steering Committee Meeting

3rd Wednesday of the month
401 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850
1st Floor Tan Conference Room
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Workgroups

Meet, as needed, at differing locations.

COMMISSION STRUCTURE

The Commission operates through a structure that is re-evaluated annually to respond to changing needs. The Steering Committee is responsible for planning and directing the activities of the Commission and for overseeing the activities of the committees.

The work of the Commission is done by Commission members and interested persons from the community. In addition, coordinators are assigned to take lead responsibility for public relations and legislation. The Nominating and Selection Committees, required for administration purposes, were also established.

Be an advocate!!! The Commission encourages that all residents with disabilities and their families communicate with their elected officials about their needs for programs and services. The following pages include contact information for you to use in contacting your elected officials.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS



**County Executive
Isiah Leggett**

The **County Executive** can be reached at:

Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, MD 20850
240-777-0311 (V)
240-773-3556 (TTY)
ocemail@montgomerycountymd.gov



Montgomery County Council

The **County Council** can be reached at:

Stella B. Werner Council Office Building
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850
240-777-7900 (V)
240-777-7914 (TTY)
240-777-7888 (FAX)
county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov

Seated, left to right: Vice-President Roger Berliner, President Valerie Ervin, Nancy Floreen and George Leventhal. *Standing:* Hans Riemer, Craig Rice, Marc Elrich, Nancy Navarro and Phil Andrews.

Isiah Leggett, County Executive
Uma S. Ahluwalia, Director
John J. Kenney, Ph.D., Chief
Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services
Aging and Disability Services, Commission on People with Disabilities
401 Hungerford Drive, 4th Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850
240-777-1246 (V) ♦ via MD Relay at 711

Language translation and alternative formats of this report are available upon request.
For additional information on the Commission, please call the telephone numbers or write to the address listed above or e-mail via the contact information listed below.

Montgomery County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in employment or in the admission or access to its programs or services.

2010 - 2011 ANNUAL REPORT PREPARED BY:

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